



DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Rich Battistessa

Eat your heart out, Copacabana

Our Mangia Italiano dinner, celebrating the Dante Club's 90th anniversary, was truly spectacular. Attendees were treated to a nightclub ambience, with music, dancing, a great menu and a wonderful group of friends.

A big thank-you goes to our planning committee, social chairman Tom Novi and, especially, the Ladies Auxiliary, led by Jill Matranga.

The Venetian Room put the Copacabana to shame. Club manager and chef Joy Reinhardt created a delectable menu that was enjoyed by all, and Michael Micciche and John Caselli helped organize the event.

Our namesake, Dante Alighieri, would have been proud of such a fine festa.

Mangia Italiano and other events for this year have all been planned around our 90th anniversary celebration. We're updating our history, reaching out to Sacramento's Italian community and encouraging all our members to be more active in the club—but also in all things Italian. We have a very rich legacy in Sacramento. We

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The Cheryl Tibuzzi Trio play standards for dancing during the Dante Club's Sept. 17 90th anniversary event, Mangia Italiano.

MANGIA ITALIANO

Sophisticated soiree a night to remember

The night of Sept. 17 will be remembered by all attendees of this year's Mangia Italiano. With the help of Jill Matranga, Ladies Auxiliary president, the Dante Club's Venetian Room was transformed into a nightclub setting that took guests back to the glorious days of dinner jackets and cocktail dresses.

As the Cheryl Tibuzzi Trio played standards, guests dined on a lovely array of antipasti, caprese salad, bucatini, rack of lamb or Cornish game hen and—wait, there's more—a prosecco toast and, of course, tiramisu.

The founding members of the Dante Club and the Ladies Auxiliary would have been proud.

Between breaks in the music, club president Rich Battistessa, choking back tears

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Dante Club president Rich Battistessa gets emotional as he describes the importance of his Italian heritage to the crowd.



President's Corner

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all should be extremely proud of our culture.

The spirit of the 90th is also visible in our general membership meetings, as we've shared more dialogue about revisiting some of our old traditions, stressing family values, bocce, playing cards and making the club available to the membership.

At our most recent general meeting, longtime member Romano Lucchini offered his thoughts on how we might recapture the camaraderie, friendship and fraternity that we always talk about.

Another member, Stan DiOrio, talked about the importance of supporting Italian businesses in Sacramento but especially those represented within our membership.

Another member said the pictures of our past presidents should be visible at all times to show respect for those who have made the Dante Club such a successful organization in Sacramento.

Our board of directors has worked diligently to promote the Dante Club. The Privato Room is now on the lease market, a bylaws change has been put before the membership, and family and meeting night menus are under review. We also are working hard to keep members informed and engaged and have created a great partnership with our very important Ladies Auxiliary.

Increasing attendance at our meetings is an ongoing task. We hope that as our members see the positive direction we're moving toward, more will want to become involved.

This year—and it's only October—has been action-packed, and we have a lot more to accomplish.

So please come out and support the Dante Club!



WHAT'S COOKING?

Joy Reinhardt

Club employee and mom embodies the power and reward of perseverance

The Dante Club is proud to recognize our employees for all they accomplish.

A special one to mention this month is Andrea Parker.

Andrea arrived at the club about a year-and-a-half ago, fresh from participating in St. John's Program for Real Change, an outreach program for homeless women and children operated by St. John's Lutheran Church of Sacramento.

Andrea applied for a position at our club with energy, attitude and a smile so big it was blinding.

If you don't regularly take time to speak to our staff members here at the Dante Club, I hope you will after reading this article. When you do, you'll understand that our employees all have compelling stories—of perseverance, fortitude and fight.

Andrea is a single mom with two amazingly beautiful daughters, Dondria and Kamauriona. She also has struggled with something else: an addiction.

I am proud to share, on her behalf, that she has been clean from all drugs for two years, which is easier said than done.

Andrea has an apartment and a car, and she is raising her daughters the right way, like a boss. Both girls are excellent students, polite and examples of what family means: consistency, love and togetherness.

Please help us celebrate Andrea's achievement by letting her know how proud you are of her and all the hurdles she has overcome.



Andrea Parker with her daughters, Dondria and Kamauriona.



Upcoming Events

To reserve and pay online, go to:
<http://www.danteclub.com/calendar.php>

October 13

Stag Sausage Feed

Time: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner

Menu: All-you-can-eat hot and mild sausages, peppers and onions, pasta, salad, rolls and wine

Cost: \$25 per person; open to all male guests 21 and older

Reserve by 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 7.

November 1

Family Dinner

Time: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner

Menu: Rustic bolognese over rigatoni with hearty mixed greens, seasonal vegetables, dessert, house wine and coffee

Cost: \$22 adults, \$11 children ages 5 to 12

Reservation details are pending.

December 6

Family Dinner

Time: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner

Menu: Mixed greens, half chicken with pancetta cream, polenta cake, vegetables, winter greens, dessert, house wine and coffee

Cost: \$22 adults, \$11 children ages 5 to 12

Reservation details are pending.

SAVE THE DATE: December 31, New Year's Eve party!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Our cioppino dinner is coming January 14, 2017. Details to follow!



A view from Bellagio shows the picturesque village of Varenna on the eastern shore of Lake Como. Colorful homes and the 14th-century Church of San Giorgio are among Varenna's many attractions.

Lake Como lures with leisurely strolls, boat rides and (if you're lucky) Clooney sightings

Story and photos by Michael Micciche

Lake Como, in the Italian region of Lombardy, is a wonderful place to relax and unwind.

If you have a car, leave it parked for a few days so you can enjoy boat rides to the lakeside communities of Bellagio, Menaggio, Varenna, Tremezzo, Lenno and, of course, Como. You might even run into George Clooney!

Be sure to visit the area's many beautiful villas, including Villa Carlotta and Villa Melzi. If you decide you might enjoy a drive, get the car and take the short ride to Switzerland, just north of Lake Como.

You also can venture to Milan if you crave the big city. There you'll find La Scala, the Galleria and the cathedral, including the Last Supper.

Bellagio, in the heart of Lake Como, sits in a beautiful location. Good restaurants feature fresh-water fish and traditional pasta dishes. Varenna, too, offers a lot of charm, shops and hotels. All the villages lend themselves to leisurely strolling.

Spring and early autumn are beautiful times to visit Lake Como.

As I like to say, let the journey begin!



A cobbled main street lined with shops winds up from Lake Como in the tourist resort village of Bellagio in Lombardy. The small town offers visitors the chance to relax and enjoy beautiful lakeshore views, a tree-lined waterfront, public gardens, shopping boutiques and restaurants.



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary will hold a Columbus Day celebration Oct. 10, featuring its second annual mercato, a small vendors' market to help members with their holiday shopping.

The auxiliary meets the second Monday of each month, except July and August, for themed dinner meetings.

If you're interested in participating, please call president Jill Matranga at 916-204-9409 or email her at jmatranga@surewest.net.

New members

In September, the Dante Club inducted Tom DeCicco, sponsored by Randy Canova, and John Agostinelli, sponsored by his father, Don Agostinelli.

Members also approved three new applicants: Gabe Roberson, John Klier and Tom Bellucci. They will be inducted Oct. 17.

In addition, members interviewed Doug Skewes, who will appear before the board to discuss possible honorary membership.

We now have 10 openings for new members. Please bring your qualified family and friends into our club by obtaining an application form online (www.danteclub.com/members.php) or from club manager Joy Reinhardt.

You also may contact Frank Calcagno at fscal@comcast.net or 916-515-1117.

In memoriam

Andrew Di Loreto, a member of the Dante Club since 2000, died Aug. 24.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Di Loreto family.



Enjoying a cocktail and conversation moment at Mangia Italiano are, top photo from left, Mike and Jennifer Eckert, Neil and Kathy Ring, Ann Faires, Elaine Schaedler and Maryjane Moitoso. Guests gather, above, to sip their cocktails before dinner and dancing.

Mangia Italiano

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about his fondness for his Italian heritage, thanked all the committee members for their help. A 10-minute pictorial on the history of the club followed.

Although not all attendees were of Italian heritage, the setting, the food and the wine made everyone feel like they came from the Old Country.

Check the Dante Club website and the Inferno for information about upcoming 90th anniversary celebrations.



The delectable foods at Mangia Italiano included, clockwise from left, antipasti, caprese salad, bucatini Amatriciana, rack of lamb, tiramisu and limoncello.



DANTE'S REMINDERS



Member volunteers

To volunteer, contact club president Rich Battistessa or social chairman Tom Novi to offer your services. You can reach Rich at drbattistessa@comcast.net or 916-961-4854 and Tom at tomnovi@aol.com or 916-961-6197. To explore new social events, contact Vic Brida at ybrida51@gmail.com or 916-588-6276.

Donations

Donate to our scholarship or building funds in memory of a loved one or a friend to keep their legacy going. And buy raffle tickets! Donations can be made easily online at <http://www.danteclub.com/donation.html>.

Club shirts and jackets

Contact Ron Cristoni at 916-457-4516 or roncristoni@aol.com or speak to him at the next members meeting. You must present cash or a check to place an order for shirts and jackets.

Newsletter photos and news

Submit photos and news items for *Dante's Inferno* to John Caselli at jac6652@aol.com. Items must be received by the 25th of each month to be considered for the following month's newsletter. Publication depends on available space and is not guaranteed. To post news and photos on Facebook, log in to your Facebook account and search for "Dante Club."

Contact information

Have you recently changed your address or phone number? Please alert Tom Mezzanares at 916-467-7483 or tjmezzan@gmail.com.

Premium winery, brewery and olive oil partners

Wine

- Balletto Vineyards, Santa Rosa
- Bella Grace Vineyards, Sutter Creek
- Carvalho Family Winery, Clarksburg
- Galvan Family Cellars, Fairfield
- Karmere Vineyards, Plymouth
- Merlo Vineyards, Redding
- Morse Wines, Fiddletown
- Pedroncelli, Geyserville
- Perry Creek Winery, Fair Play

- Sean Minor, Napa
- Secret Ravine, Loomis
- Taylor Family Vineyards, Napa
- Yorba Wines, Sutter Creek
- Young's Vineyard, Plymouth

Beer

- Blue Note Brewing Co., Woodland
- Hoppy Brewing Co., Sacramento
- Lost Coast Brewery, Humboldt
- Mussetter Distributing, Auburn

- Out of Bounds Brewing Co., Rocklin
- Wildcard Brewing Co., Redding

Olive Oil

- Olive Mix, Sacramento